

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PORG, UNTC, UNGA, UNSC, TQ, UR, US

SUBJECT: US RESPONSE TO SOVIET STATEMENT ON TRUST
TERRITORY

REF: USUN 0630

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS THAT SOVIET CHARGES CONTAINED IN
JOINT GA/SC DOCUMENTS A/33/59 AND S/12569 SHOULD NOT GO
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UNCHALLENGED. WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE
INCLUDED IN LETTER TO TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

-- USG IS FULLY COGNIZANT OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE
ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS AND HAS CARRIED OUT ITS ADMINISTRATION
OF THE TERRITORY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF

THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND THE PROVISION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

-- IN PARTICULAR, THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THIS SUPPORT IS FULLY DOCUMENTED IN THE RECORDS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AND THE ANNUAL

REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THESE TWO BODIES BEING THE SOLE UNITED NATIONS ORGANS EMPOWERED BY THE CHARTER TO DISCHARGE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

-- IN 1975 THE UNITED STATES CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BY WHICH THE ISLANDS WILL ENTER INTO A COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

-- THE PLEBISCITE ON THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT, HELD IN JUNE 1975, WAS OBSERVED BY A VISITING MISSION DISPATCHED BY THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ON THE INVITATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THE VISITING MISSION REPORTED, INTER ALIA, THAT "THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, IN A UNCLASSIFIED

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WELL-ORGANIZED AND WELL-ATTENDED POLL, VOTED BY A MAJORITY OF ALMOST 80 PERCENT TO BECOME A COMMONWEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES. THERE WAS NO IMPROPER INTERFERENCE BY THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY. THE CAMPAIGN WAS FREELY FOUGHT. THE POLL WAS FREE AND SEEN TO BE FREE."

-- THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT WILL BECOME FULLY OPERATIVE ONLY AFTER TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, BUT CERTAIN OF ITS PROVISIONS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THAT AGREEMENT HAVE PROPERLY BEEN IMPLEMENTED DURING THE PERIOD OF TRUSTEESHIP. THE UNITED STATES HAS ACTED ON THE AUTHORITY CONFERRED BY THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THE PEOPLE OF THE ISLANDS TO DRAFT A CONSTITUTION CONSISTENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT AND TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT ELECTED ON THE BASIS OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE. THIS GOVERNMENT WAS ESTABLISHED JANUARY 9, 1978.

-- THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE MARSHALL AND CAROLINE ISLANDS IS UNDER NEGOTIATION AND WILL BE RESOLVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE

OF THE ISLANDS. PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS ENVISAGE A
RELATIONSHIP OF FREE ASSOCIATION UNDER WHICH THE
MICRONESIANS WOULD BE FULLY SELF-GOVERNING WITH REGARD
TO INTERNAL MATTERS. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT
EXCLUDED OTHER POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING

INDEPENDENCE, IF THAT IS THE WISH OF THE PEOPLES OF
MICRONESIA, IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-
DETERMINATION.

-- THE UNITED STATES HAS PREVIOUSLY INFORMED THE
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL THAT IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE
UNITED STATES TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF TERMINATION OF
THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL
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AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
REAFFIRM THE INTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THIS
REGARD.

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